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– HENRY DEAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

continued from front

Colleen Castille, secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. “Remaining focused on first-rate science and engineering along with sound fiscal management is a formula that is bringing environmental results.”

Henry Dean, executive director of the South Florida Water Management District, agrees. “It took a lot of coordination at the state level and within our agency to put this consolidated report into action. But the result is well worth it. In one hand I can hold a year’s worth of outstanding District work and environmental progress – and share it with the world.”

In the coming months, the Florida Legislature will decide whether to turn this pilot project into a permanent requirement for all water management districts in the state. The *2005 South Florida Environmental Report* contains specific recommendations for doing so, noting that efficiency in information gathering plus savings in production, printing and distribution costs clearly make it a worthwhile effort. In addition, the database of projects and programs provides reporting consistency as well as ready availability of large amounts of data.

Rising land costs, water quality issues, availability of funding and other issues will bring continued challenges in environmental restoration. But work will move forward and progress will be documented in the *South Florida Environmental Report*.

## How to get your copy:

The two-volume *2005 South Florida Environmental*

*Report*, including a 52-page executive summary, is

available online at [www.sfwmd.gov/sfer](http://www.sfwmd.gov/sfer). Print copies of the executive

summary containing a CD of the report are available from the District’s

Reference Center at (800) 432-2045, Ext. 2850.



## A LOT OF POSITIVE PROGRESS

is found in the *2005 South Florida Environmental Report*. Treatment marshes and agricultural programs together have removed an impressive 1,700 metric tons of phosphorus since 1994 that otherwise would have entered the Everglades. Wading birds, an important indicator of environmental health, had one of their best breeding years in decades, with more than 50,000 nests documented throughout the region. And almost 8,000 acres of land were added to the District’s holdings for projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), surpassing the 50 percent mark for all CERP lands needed, totaling 206,109 acres acquired to date.

# A Resounding Start

## First Acceler8 project blasts off

Three months to the day after Gov. Jeb Bush unveiled plans for the ambitious Acceler8 initiative, government officials, local residents and project managers gathered in western Palm Beach County for the Jan. 14 groundbreaking of the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir. The event marked the start of the first Acceler8 project, and the crowd’s enthusiasm resonated in the morning breeze. “Today we are one step closer to realizing our vision for the region, state, and in fact our entire nation,” said South Florida Water Management District Chair Nicolás J. Gutiérrez Jr.

Two water storage test cells are being built as a part of Acceler8’s EAA Reservoir project. Water seepage presents a challenge in building above-ground reservoirs in our region’s porous limestone soils. The test cells will provide engineers with seepage data for assessing embankment design and reservoir operation. “By constructing the cells first, we are protecting the \$300 million taxpayer investment in the larger reservoir,” said South Florida Water Management District Executive Director Henry Dean.

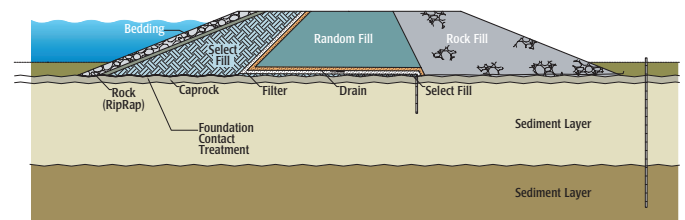
With a contracted workforce performing two 10-hour shifts per day, construction is expected to be completed by March 2005. Each 500-foot test cell will mimic the 12-foot depth of the planned full-size reservoir and will be monitored for four weeks after construction. “The data provided by these cells will fine-tune the project design ensuring the long-term success of an essential Everglades water storage component,” said Dean. Ultimately, the completed EAA Reservoir will store regulatory water releases from Lake Okeechobee, capture stormwater runoff from agricultural land, and provide additional water supply to improve flows into the Everglades.

“Here we are, just three short months after the announcement,” said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Colleen M. Castille. “Everglades restoration is happening!”

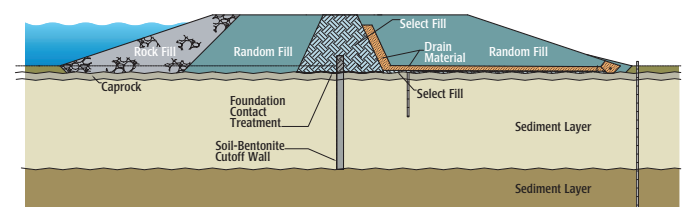


Construction crews blast through limerock to make way for two EAA Reservoir Project test cells.

## Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir Test Cells



Test Cell No. 1  
Embankment Cross-Section



Test Cell No. 2  
Embankment Cross-Section

Find out more  
by visiting

ACCELER8  
[evergladesnow.org](http://evergladesnow.org)

BLAST OFF!!!